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U.S. has received intelligence from LaRouche group, White House confirms

From the Chicago Tribune

Washington — The White House

has confirmed that the National Security Council staff and the Central Intelligence Agency have held several meetings with members of the militantly right-wing organization of Lyndon LaRouche to gather economic intelligence on foreign governments.

A half-dozen of these sessions were conducted by Norman Bailey, former senior director of international economic affairs on the National Security Council staff and special assistant to President Reagan, Mr. Bailey confirmed Wednesday.

Mr. Bailey, who left the White House in October, is an international-economics adviser to the Reagan-Bush reelection campaign.

He said Mr. LaRouche and his followers have "an excellent private intelligence system."

A spokesman for the LaRouche campaign here said he is the founder of the National Democratic Policy Committee, a political action committee, as well as a "philosophical organization" called the International Caucus of Labor Committees, which has headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, and offices in more than 12 other cities in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Mr. Bailey's meetings and the CIA's meetings with LaRouche followers, disclosed in a report by NBC's "First Camera" program last Sunday night, were confirmed Wednesday by White House spokesman Larry Speakes and a CIA spokesman.

The program about Mr. LaRouche, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination this year, brought an outcry from Democratic National Chairman Charles Manatt, who condemned "the activities of this fanatical cult, which ... practices various

forms of intimidation, including character attacks and harassment of the news media."

Monday Mr. Manatt called on President Reagan to end "this shocking White House involvement with the bizarre, extremist cult of Lyndon H. LaRouche." Mr. Manatt condemned the implication that "members of this group have had some degree of influence on the administration."

Mr. LaRouche, who headed the now-defunct U.S. Labor Party and ran for president in 1976 and 1980, has warned that the Soviet Union is planning to provoke a nuclear confrontation with the United States in coming months.

LaRouche publications over the years have attacked Mr. Manatt and other public figures, including former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, actress Jane Fonda and former envoy Averill Harriman. Mr. LaRouche and his followers also have numerous conspiracy theories involving organized labor, the Rockefeller family, the Carter administration and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, whom he has accused of being a drug dealer.

Mr. Speakes, the White House spokesman, told reporters that Mr. Bailey is now a private consultant in Washington, and that the administration's "viewpoint is that, from time to time, we talk to various people who may have information that might prove helpful to us or might not prove helpful to us. Any American citizen, we'd be glad to talk to."